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10/583,628	06/20/2006	Uwe Ackermann	2003P01978WOUS	4881

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EXAMINER

HALL, COREY JOHN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3743

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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08/17/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/583,628	Applicant(s) ACKERMANN ET AL.	
	Examiner COREY HALL	Art Unit 3743	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 May 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 10-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 10-18, 21, 23, 26 and 27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 19, 20, 22, 24 and 25 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 June 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments, see pages 9-14, filed 5/11/2009, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 10-22 under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) have been fully considered and are persuasive.

Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of different interpretation of the previously applied reference and newly found prior art.

2. Applicant's arguments filed 5/11/2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. On page 8, lines 6-17 the Applicant states that the reference number 26 is not shown in the drawing figures. In the Office Action mailed 1/6/2009 the Examiner objected to the drawings for not including reference "26" as mentioned in Applicant's Specification. Reference "a housing 26 of the drier" can be found in the Substitute Specification at paragraph 20, line 12, previously paragraph 22, line 11. On page 8, lines 18-22 the Applicant states that the objections to the specification have been corrected in a Substitute Specification. However, the objection to "section 21 section 22" which can be found in the Substitute Specification at paragraph 22, line 10 has not been corrected and therefore the objection with regard to "section 21 section 22" stands.

3. Applicant's arguments, see page 8, lines 18-22, filed 5/11/2009, with respect to the objection to "Claim 1 and/or Claim 5", "lint filer" and "en", have been fully considered and are persuasive. The objection of specification for the above reasons has been withdrawn.

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4. Applicant's arguments, see page 8, lines 23-26, filed 5/11/2009, with respect to the objection of 22 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The objection of claim 22 has been withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

6. Claim 27 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The term "do not prevent" recited in claim 27, line 3, is new matter which was not described in the specification at the time the application was filed. Clarification or cancellation of the term is requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

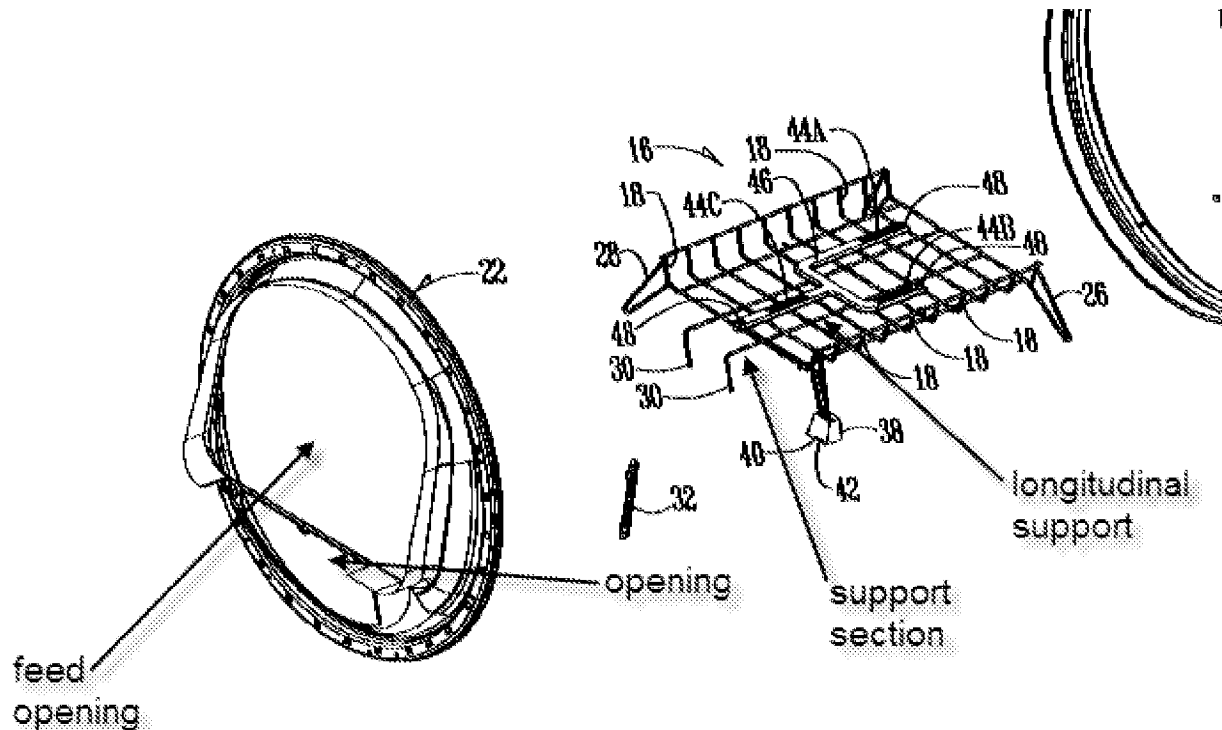
8. Claims 10-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Herr (US Patent No. 6,026,592 cited in Notice of References Cited mailed 1/6/2009).

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9. Regarding claims 10-11, Herr discloses a drier (10, fig. 1) comprising a rotary drum (20, fig. 4) that can be fed through a feed opening (fig. 4 and Figure A below), through which drum process air is able to flow from a rear wall (24, fig. 4) into an end plate (22, fig. 4) adjacent to the feed opening (fig. 4 and Figure A below), and also comprising a drying basket (16, fig. 4) with a lattice type basket (fig. 4 showing a lattice type basket as part of the drying basket 16) projecting into the drum (20, fig. 4), which basket is supported (col. 2, lines 56-57 describing an integral connecting device 30 adapted to rest on the end plate 22) demountably in at least one opening (fig. 4 and Figure A below) on the end plate (22, fig. 4), wherein the drying basket (16, fig. 4) has a longitudinal support (fig. 4 and Figure A below) projecting into the drum (20, fig. 4), on which support an integral connecting device (30, fig. 3) is formed, which device engages with the opening (fig. 4 and Figure A below) and which has a supporting section (fig. 4 and Figure A below) with which it is supported ("a pair of hooks are adapted to rest on the tumbler front 22 to help position the drying rack 16" col. 2, lines 56-57) against the end plate (22, fig. 4), the longitudinal support (fig. 4 and Figure A below) is designed as wire (col. 2, lines 38-41 describing wire) and the connecting device (30, fig. 4, "a pair of hooks 30" col. 2, line 56) is a hook formed on one end section of the wire (fig. 4 showing wire with hook 30 formed at the end), wherein the hook (fig. 4 showing connecting device 30 as a hook) and the support section (fig. 4 and Figure A below) are formed by a bending process (fig. 4 showing bent wire).

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Figure A.



Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

10. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

11. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.

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4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

12. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

13. Claims 12-13 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Herr (US Patent No. 6,026,592) as applied to claims 10 and 11 above, and further in view of St. Louis (US Patent No. 4,677,760).

14. In regards to claims 12-13 and 23, Herr discloses the claimed invention including the drying basket (16, fig. 4) has two longitudinal supports (fig. 4 and Figure A above) and the end plate (22, fig. 4) . . . , the drying basket (16, fig. 4) has a longitudinal support (fig. 4 and Figure A above) on both longitudinal sides, and the engagement of the hook (fig. 4 showing connecting device 30 as a hook) in the opening (fig. 4 and Figure A above) and the engagement of the support section (fig. 4 and Figure A above) with the end plate (22, fig. 4) support cause the drying basket (16, fig. 4) to project into the drum (20, fig. 4) . . . , except for the end plate has two openings, wherein each longitudinal support engages with one of these openings, and in a cantilevered fashion. However, St. Louis teaches an end plate (22', fig. 7) having two openings (66, fig. 7), wherein each support (62, 64, fig. 7 showing supports that engage with the openings) engages with one of these openings (66, fig. 7), and in a cantilevered fashion (col. 1, line 58) in

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order to securely mount a drying rack in a clothes dryer (col. 1, lines 55-59). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify the Herr reference, to include the end plate has two openings, wherein each longitudinal support engages with one of these openings, and in a cantilevered fashion, as suggested and taught by St. Louis, for the purpose of securely mounting a drying rack in a clothes dryer. The Applicant is combining prior art elements according to known methods to yield predictable results. The Applicant is combining the prior art elements of a drying basket having longitudinal supports that engage an opening in an end plate as disclosed by Herr with the prior art elements of a drying device having supports that engage with openings in an end plate in a cantilevered fashion as taught by St. Louis according to known methods to yield the predictable results of a drying basket having longitudinal supports that engage openings in an end plate in a cantilevered fashion. One would be motivated to combine Herr with St. Louis because St. Louis provides openings that can be engaged with by the ends of supports to securely hold a drying rack and Herr could be similarly improved to have its supports more securely held by having holes in which its longitudinal supports can engage and thus provide a more stable and durable attachment.

15. Claims 14-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Herr (US Patent No. 6,026,592) as applied to claim 10 above, and further in view of Czech et al. (US Patent No. 4,720,925 cited in Notice of References Cited mailed 1/6/2009) and Maytag Appliances Sales Co. ((Maytag Neptune Dryer) 2004, [online], [retrieved on 2009-8-10] Retrieved from the Maytag Owners Center Manuals and Literature for model MDE7500 using Internet <URL:

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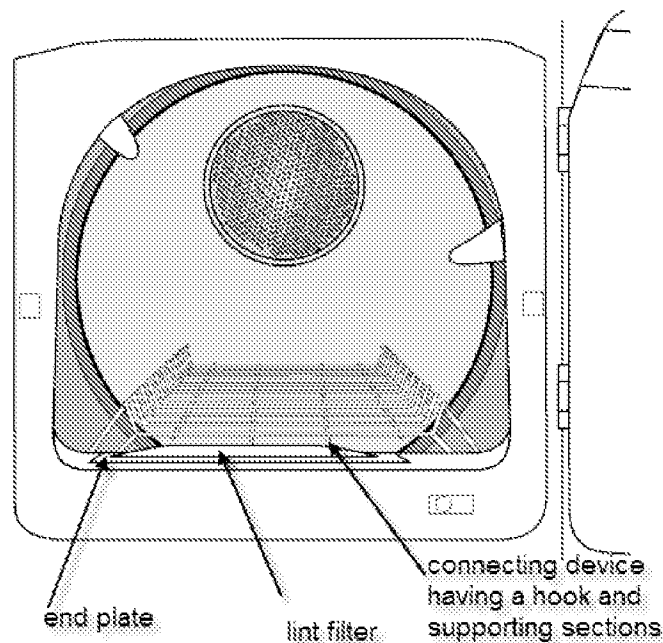
http://shared.whirlpoolcorp.com/product_literature/search_results.jsp?searchTerm=MDE7500&siteCd=MT_EN_US>).

16. In regards to claims 14-15, Herr discloses the claimed invention including a connecting device (Herr, 30, fig. 4), except for a demountable lint filter is arranged in the end plate, which filter is adjacent to the opening and the opening and the connecting device are covered by the lint filter. However, Czech et al. teaches a demountable lint filter (42, 72, fig. 4 showing a filter 42 and handle 72) arranged in an end plate (58, fig. 4, col. 3, lines 40-46 describing the lint filter being demountable in an end plate), which filter (42, 72, fig. 4) is adjacent to an opening (74, fig. 4, “curved recess 74” col. 3, line 13) and the opening (74, fig. 4) is covered by the lint filter (42, 72, fig. 4 showing handle 72 covering the opening 74 and fig. 6 showing the handle 72 covering the opening) in order to enable quantities of lint to accumulate on the filter (abstract, lines 7-9). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify the Herr reference, to include a demountable lint filter is arranged in the end plate, which filter is adjacent to the opening and the opening and the connecting device are covered by the lint filter, as suggested and taught by Czech et al., for the purpose of enabling quantities of lint to accumulate on the screen. It would have been obvious to combine the drying basket of Herr with the lint filter of Czech et al. in view of Maytag which shows a drying basket having a connecting device (Maytag, page 22 and Figure B below, Examiner notes that the Assignee of Herr is Maytag Corporation) connected to an end plate (Maytag, page 22 and Figure B below) and having a lint filter (Maytag, page 22 and Figure B below) in the end plate (Maytag, page 22 and Figure B below). The Applicant is combining prior art elements according to known methods to yield predictable results. The Applicant is combining the prior art elements of

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a drying basket having connecting devices that connect to an opening in the end plate as disclosed by Herr with the prior art elements of a demountable filter arranged in an end plate where the lint filter covers an opening as taught by Czech et al. according to known methods to yield the predictable results of a demountable lint filter arranged in the end plate, which filter is adjacent to the opening and the opening and the connecting device are covered by the lint filter. One would be motivated to combine Herr with Czech et al. because Czech et al. teaches a demountable lint filter arranged in an end plate to enable quantities of lint to accumulate on the filter and Herr could be improved by having a lint filter to accumulate lint and reduce lint build up in the exhaust duct and thus eliminating a possible fire hazard.

Figure B.



17. Claims 16, 21, and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Herr (US Patent No. 6,026,592) in view of St. Louis (US Patent No. 4,677,760).

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18. Regarding claims 16, 21, and 26, Herr discloses a laundry drier (10, fig. 1) comprising: a housing (fig. 1 showing a housing); a rotary drum (20, fig. 4) disposed within the housing and including a rear wall (24, fig. 4 showing an inlet opening) having inlet openings through which an air flow enters the rotary drum (20, fig. 4); a feed opening (fig. 4 and Figure A above) in the housing providing access to the rotary drum (20, fig. 4); an end plate (22, fig. 4) disposed near a lower portion of the feed opening (fig. 4 and Figure A above) . . . ; a drying basket (16, fig. 4) including two elongated longitudinal supports (fig. 4 and Figure A above) and a lattice type basket (fig. 4) supported by the longitudinal supports (fig. 4 and Figure A above), each longitudinal support (fig. 4 and Figure A above) including a connecting device (30, fig. 4, "hooks 30" col. 2, line 56) having a hook and a supporting section (fig. 4 and Figure A above), the drying basket (16, fig. 4) being removably connected to the end plate (22, fig. 4) and projecting into the rotary drum (20, fig. 4) toward the rear wall (24, fig. 4) . . . and each of the supporting sections (fig. 4 and Figure A above) engaging a surface of the end plate (22, fig. 4) to support (col. 2, lines 56-57 describing the connecting device 30 being adapted to rest on the end plate 22 to help position the drying basket 16) the drying basket (16, fig. 4) within the rotary drum (20, fig. 4), a method (col. 1, lines 39-43 describing a method of using a drying basket) for removably connecting a drying basket (16, fig. 4) to a laundry drier (10, fig. 1), the method comprising the following acts: providing the laundry drier (10, fig. 1) comprising a housing (fig. 1 showing a housing), a rotary drum (20, fig. 4) disposed within the housing, a feed opening (fig. 4 and Figure A above) in the housing providing access to the rotary drum (20, fig. 4), and an end plate (22, fig. 4 showing a lower portion of end plate 22) disposed near a lower portion of the feed opening (fig. 4 and Figure A above) . . . ; providing the drying basket (16, fig. 4) including

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two elongated longitudinal supports (fig. 4 and Figure A above) and a lattice type basket (fig. 4) supported by the longitudinal supports (fig. 4 and Figure A above), each longitudinal support including a connecting device (30, fig. 4, "hooks 30" col. 2, line 56) having a hook and a supporting section (fig. 4 and Figure A above); . . . with the drying basket (16, fig. 4) projecting into the rotary drum (20, fig. 4); and positioning each supporting section (fig. 4 and Figure A above) on a surface of the end plate (22, fig. 4) to support the drying basket (16, fig. 4) within the rotary drum (20, fig. 4), the engagement between the hooks (fig. 4 showing connecting device 30 shaped as a hook) and the . . . and between the supporting sections (fig. 4 and Figure A above) and the end plate (22, fig. 4) cause the drying basket (16, fig. 4) to project into rotary drum (20, fig. 4) . . . , except for including two basket openings disposed near opposing ends of the end plate, with each of the basket openings receiving one of the hooks, including two basket openings, inserting each hook into one of the basket openings, basket openings, and in a cantilevered fashion. However, St. Louis teaches including two openings (66, fig. 7 showing openings 66 for hooks 62 and 64) disposed near opposing ends (fig. 6 showing hooks 62 and 64 being at opposing ends) of an end plate (22', fig. 6), with each of the openings (66, fig. 7) receiving one of the hooks (62, 64, fig. 7), including two openings (66, fig. 7), inserting each hook (62, 64, fig. 7) into one of the openings (66, fig. 7), openings (66, fig. 7), and in a cantilevered fashion (col. 1, lines 55-59) in order to securely mount a drying rack in a clothes dryer (col. 1, lines 55-59). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify the Herr reference, to include including two basket openings disposed near opposing ends of the end plate, with each of the basket openings receiving one of the hooks, including two basket openings, inserting each hook into one of the

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basket openings, basket openings, and in a cantilevered fashion, as suggested and taught by St. Louis, for the purpose of securely mounting a drying rack in a clothes dryer. The Applicant is combining prior art elements according to known methods to yield predictable results. The Applicant is combining the prior art elements of a drying basket having connecting devices in an opening in the end plate and projecting into the drum as disclosed by Herr with the prior art elements of a drying device having connecting devices that connect to openings disposed near opposing ends of an end plate and allow the drying device to project into the drum in a cantilever fashion as taught by St. Louis according to known methods to yield the predictable results of a drying basket having connecting devices that are received into openings disposed near opposing ends of the end plate and the drying basket extending in a cantilever fashion into the drying drum. One would be motivated to combine Herr with St. Louis because St. Louis provides openings that can be engaged with by connecting devices to securely mount a drying rack to a clothes dryer and the drying basket of Herr could be more securely mounted in the clothes dryer by having openings which the connecting devices engage and thus provide a more stable and durable construction.

19. Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Herr (US Patent No. 6,026,592) in view of St. Louis (US Patent No. 4,677,760) as applied to claim 16 above, and further in view of Thorn (GB 1,491,852 provided by Applicant in IDS dated 6/20/2006).

20. In regards to claim 17, Herr as modified by St. Louis discloses the claimed invention including from Herr a longitudinal support (fig. 4 and Figure A above) and connecting device (30, fig. 4) are integrally formed from a rigid wire member (col. 2, lines 38-40 describing a wire), except for a rigid wire member having various angled sections bent into the desired

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configuration. However, Thorn teaches a rigid wire member ("wire" page 2, lines 75-79) having various angled sections (fig. 1 showing bent angled sections at 8) bent into the desired configuration in order to provide more support for the rack (page 2, lines 112-121). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify the Herr as modified by St. Louis reference, to include a rigid wire member having various angled sections bent into the desired configuration, as suggested and taught by Thorn, for the purpose of providing more support for the rack. The Applicant is combining prior art elements according to known methods to yield predictable results. The Applicant is combining the prior art elements of a drying basket having longitudinal support and connecting device integrally formed from a rigid wire member as disclosed by Herr with the prior art elements of a drying rack having a longitudinal support (Thorn, 9, fig. 1) and connecting device (Thorn, 8, fig. 1) integrally formed from a rigid wire member having various angled sections bent into a desired configuration as taught by Thorn according to known methods to yield the predictable results of a drying basket having the longitudinal support and connecting device integrally formed from a rigid wire member having various angled sections bent into a desired configuration. One would be motivated to combine Herr with Thorn because Thorn teaches a rigid wire member having various angled sections to provide more support and Herr could have more support by having similar angled sections for its rigid wire members and thus provide a more stable and durable construction.

21. Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Herr (US Patent No. 6,026,592) in view of St. Louis (US Patent No. 4,677,760) as applied to claim 16, and

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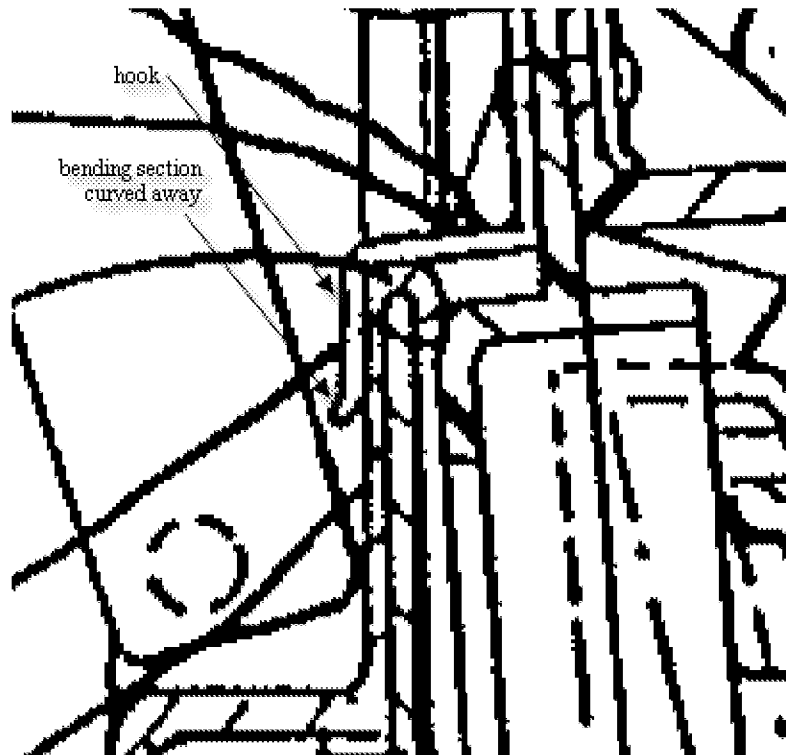
further in view of Kretchman et al. (US Patent No. 4,908,959 cited in Notice of References Cited mailed 1/6/2009).

22. In regards to claim 18, Herr as modified by St. Louis discloses the claimed invention, except for each hook includes a bending section curving away from the drying basket. However, Kretchman et al. teaches a hook (102, fig. 5 and Figure C below) including a bending section curving away (fig. 5 and Figure C below) from a drying basket (40, fig. 5) in order to help engage the hook to the front portion of a clothes dryer (col. 4, lines 32-45). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify the Herr as modified by St. Louis reference, to include each hook includes a bending section curving away from the drying basket, as suggested and taught by Kretchman et al., for the purpose of helping to engage the hook to the front portion of a clothes dryer. The Applicant is combining prior art elements according to known methods to yield predictable results. The Applicant is combining the prior art elements of a drying basket having hooks that engage a front portion of a clothes dryer as disclosed by Herr with the prior art elements of a drying basket having a hook that engages a front portion of a clothes dryer with the hook including a bending section curving away from the drying basket as taught by Kretchman et al. according to known methods to yield the predictable result of a drying basket having hooks that engage a front portion of a clothes dryer with each hook including a bending section curving away from the drying basket. One would be motivated to combine Herr with Kretchman et al. because Kretchman et al. teaches a hook bending away from the drying basket to help engage a front portion of a clothes dryer and Herr could be improved to have hooks that more readily engage

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the front portion of a clothes dryer by having the hooks bending away from the drying basket and thus provide for faster attaching of the hooks.

Figure C.



23. Claim 27 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Herr (US Patent No. 6,026,592) in view of St. Louis (US Patent No. 4,677,760) as applied to claim 16 above, and further in view of Czech et al. (US Patent No. 4,720,925) and Maytag Appliances Sales Co. ((Maytag Neptune Dryer) 2004, [online], [retrieved on 2009-8-10] Retrieved from the Maytag Owners Center Manuals and Literature for model MDE7500 using Internet <URL: http://shared.whirlpoolcorp.com/product_literature/search_results.jsp?searchTerm=MDE7500&siteCd=MT_EN_US>).

24. In regards to claim 27, Herr as modified by St. Louis discloses the claimed invention including from Herr the mounting of the hooks (Herr, fig. 4 showing hooks at connecting device

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30) into a basket opening (Herr, fig. 4 and Figure A above) and the engagement between the supporting sections (Herr, fig. 4 and Figure A above) and the end plate (Herr, 22, fig. 4, col. 2, lines 56-57) and from St. Louis openings (St. Louis, 66, fig. 7), except for do not prevent a lint filter from being mounted in a recess in the end plate. However, Czech et al. teaches a lint filter (42, 72, fig. 4 showing a filter 42 and handle 72) mounted in a recess (50, fig. 4) in an end plate (58, fig. 4) in order to enable quantities of lint to accumulate on the filter (abstract, lines 7-9).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify the Herr as modified by St. Louis reference, to include do not prevent a lint filter from being mounted in a recess in the end plate, as suggested and taught by Czech et al., for the purpose of enabling quantities of lint to accumulate on the screen. It would have been obvious to combine the drying basket of Herr with the lint filter of Czech et al. in view of Maytag which shows a drying basket having a connecting device (Maytag, page 22 and Figure B above, Examiner notes that the Assignee of Herr is Maytag Corporation) connected to an end plate (Maytag, page 22 and Figure B above) and having a lint filter (Maytag, page 22 and Figure B above) in the end plate (Maytag, page 22 and Figure B above). The Applicant is combining prior art elements according to known methods to yield predictable results. The Applicant is combining the prior art elements of mounting the drying basket hooks into a basket opening and the engagement between the supporting section and the end plate as disclosed by Herr with the prior art elements of a lint filter not prevented from being mounted in a recess in an end plate as taught by Czech et al. according to known methods to yield the predictable results of mounting the hooks of a drying basket into a basket opening and the engagement between the supporting sections and the end plate do not prevent a lint filter from being mounted in a recess in the end

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plate. One would be motivated to combine Herr with Czech et al. because Czech et al. teaches a lint filter mounted in a recess in the end plate to enable quantities of lint to accumulate on the filter and Herr could be improved by having a lint filter mounted in a recess in the end plate to accumulate lint on the filter and reduce lint build up in the exhaust duct and thus eliminating a possible fire hazard.

Allowable Subject Matter

25. Claims 19-20, 22, and 24-25 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to COREY HALL whose telephone number is (571)270-7833. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 9AM to 5PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kenneth Rinehart can be reached on (571)272-4881. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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/Corey Hall/

Examiner, Art Unit 3743

/Kenneth B Rinehart/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3743